1. INTRODUCTION

a. This course is a study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

b. In support of the objectives of the Texas core curriculum, the course provides significant exercise of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, teamwork, and empirical and quantitative skills. These objectives form a foundation of intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

   i. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

   ii. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

   iii. Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

   iv. Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.
3. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

a. Instructional materials for this class may be located at:  www.ctcd.edu/books.

4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

a. Reading Assignment: your instructor will discuss the role of reading assignments for the course.

b. Projects, Oral Reports, Case Studies, Book Reports, Research Papers: Your instructor will assign one of these items for you to complete as a part of the requirements for this course. He/she will provide specific instructions regarding content, format, timelines, etc.

c. Class Performance: Your instructor will summarize and discuss CTC’s academic policies. You may refer to the CTC catalog for details. Your instructor will provide his/her policies on absences, make up work, etc.

d. Class Participation: Your instructor will explain how class participation affects your course grade, if applicable.

5. EXAMINATIONS

Your instructor will determine how many exams will be given during the course, their content, and when they will be administered. Make-up exams will be handled according to the policy of the individual instructor.

6. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements as defined within this syllabus.

B. Your instructor will explain how to compute your semester grade based upon:

   1. Examinations
   2. Written work
   3. Other measurable requirements (if any)

C. Grades are computed as follows:

   Point/percentage-to-Grade Ratio

   > 89 - 100     A
   > 79 – 89      B
   > 69 - 79      C
   > 59 - 69      D
   < 59           F
7. ADDITIONAL NOTES

A. Withdrawal from Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. Please refer to the current CTC catalog for specific withdrawal requirements and processes.

B. Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.

C. Incomplete Grade: An “IP” grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course but encounters extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade.

D. American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA): Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support) for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

E. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

F. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
8. COURSE OUTLINE

Material from the following chapters will be covered during the semester. Your instructor will inform you of the specific material that will be covered.

Course Outline

A. Part 1:
   a. Introduction - Philosophy and the search for wisdom
   b. Chapter One – The Asian Sages
   c. Chapter Three – The Sophist: Protagoras
   d. Chapter Four – The Wise Man: Socrates
   e. Chapter Five – The Philosopher King: Plato
   f. Chapter Six – The Naturalists: Aristotle

B. Part 2:
   a. Chapter Seven: Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius.
   b. Chapter Eight: The Scholar: Thomas Aquinas
   c. Chapter Nine: The Rationalist: René Descartes
   d. Chapter Ten: The Skeptic: David Hume
   e. Chapter Eleven: The Universalist: Immanuel Kant

C. Part 3:
   a. Chapter Twelve: The Utilitarian: John Stuart Mill
   b. Chapter Thirteen: The Materialist: Karl Marx
   c. Chapter Fourteen: The Existentialist – Soren Kierkegaard
   d. Chapter Sixteen: The Anti-Philosopher – Friedrich Nietzsche
   e. Chapter Seventeen: The Twentieth Century – Martin Heidegger.